

# Getting lost

Julian Smith *reflects on* 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and Luke 15:1-10

It's hard to believe, but the renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma once left his cello in a New York taxi cab. The story has a happy ending, as the two were soon reunited, but he must have suffered some agonising moments until that happened.

Was the cello lost, or simply misplaced? Being lost is the thread from which today's Bible readings hang. Paul was a lost sinner whom Jesus found, forgave and entrusted with a mission to the world. In Luke's Gospel Jesus tells stories of a lost sheep and a lost coin.

Jesus describes the risks the shepherd takes to look for the lost sheep. He leaves the flock unattended to find it. He also describes the tenacity of the woman in her search for the coin and her joy in finding it. Later in Luke's Gospel (19:10), Jesus says, "The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The world is full of the lost and Jesus longs to be beside them all. If Teresa of Ávila is right when she says that: "Christ has no body now on earth but ours," he can only do it through us. Our readings tell us that no one is lost to God – our experience tells us that many are mislaid by the Church. 🌱

**Lord Jesus, you came to seek and save those who are lost. Thank you for finding me and calling me to walk with you. Help me to share your love with those who are lost, lonely and vulnerable, and never to forget your grace. Amen.**

## How to keep faith in a wobbling world

### Part 2 – embrace uncertainty

by Caroline Hodgson

Standing before God in the burning bush, Moses queried the mission he was given, to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. What shall I say, he asked, "If... they ask me, 'What is his name?'"

The Bible is full of examples of people who hesitated to trust God. From Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), Moses (Exodus 3:2-14) and Jonah (chapters 1 – 3) in the Old Testament, to Thomas (John 20:24-29), Peter (Luke 22:54-62) and even

John the Baptist (Matthew 11:2-3) in the New Testament.

In times of uncertainty, when the world feels wobbly and we're struggling to stay grounded, these are good passages to read, slowly and prayerfully. Does the story resonate with my experience? Is there a message here for me? Can I take comfort from the examples of these great people of faith? Then meditate on the words that God said to Moses all those years ago: "I am who I am," and take comfort that our God watches over us in our wobbling world. 🌱



## Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

On our smallholding we don't plough the fields and scatter. Instead we graze the fields and plant the polytunnel. The harvest is different from what the hymn describes but no less hard work. This is our concentrated harvesting time, from gathering windfall apples to feed the pigs, through picking and freezing tomatoes, gathering plums, slaughtering the spare drakes and finally the pigs for the

freezer. Then there's packing the meat and labelling it, making pâté from livers and cooking up any scraps for the dogs.

There's not much romance to harvesting, though it has lovely moments. It's basic hard work for surviving the winter and into spring. Climate change makes it more urgent. God is in there somewhere I know but I can't quite put my finger on it. Does that matter? Actually no, since God is through all and in all. We give thanks! 🌱

“Pray as you can, and do not try to pray as you can't.”

Dom John Chapman OSB (1865-1933) English Roman Catholic priest

## **Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mrs Hilary Beckingham. The stewards today are John and Margaret Cornish. Thank you to Angela for playing for us and thank you to Tina for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

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### **Dates for your diary:**

|                                   |          |   |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Miss Liz Ward  |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September | 10.45 am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber                              |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October    | 10.45 am | <b>Harvest Festival Service</b> led by Reverend Keith Beckingham, followed by lunch in the hall |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October   | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Reverend Peter McNeill   |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October   | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight   |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October   | 10.45 am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber                              |

**Colehill Methodist: Every Monday**, 11.00 am to 12.00 noon(ish), Bible Study, coffee, prayers and plenty of chat. All welcome.

**Circuit prayers:** First Saturday of every month at 8.30 am at Holtwood Methodist Church.

**Bible in a year:** 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September: Proverbs 19 – Ecclesiastes 6 and 2 Corinthians 7 – 12

**Meet Reverend Dr Mark Kimber:** Most Fridays Mark will be available in the Okeford Room from 10.00 am to 11.00 am for anyone who wishes to have a chat with him. However, on the third Friday of each month there will be a session entitled '**Meeting with Mark**' to which you are cordially invited.

**Harvest:** Our Harvest service takes place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October and this is followed by our Harvest Lunch. The sign-up sheet for the lunch can be found in the Narthex. Please make sure you add your name to the list by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. There will be no charge for the meal but donations will be greatly appreciated.

Leading up to Harvest we will continue to collect items for the food bank but we will hold on to these to help decorate the church. All donations will be gratefully received. Please do check the Link for items that are needed.

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In preparation for our Harvest service and meal, if you would like to help can we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 am. If you have any conkers or autumn foliage you wish to bring along that would be excellent.

*Joyce Wild*

**Church Council – Revised date:** Our Church Council meeting will now be held on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November** at 2.30 pm in the Okeford Room. All are invited to attend, although only Church Council members will be entitled to vote. For those who usually submit written reports, I will formally request these in the next couple of weeks, but to give advance notice, I will be asking for the reports to be with me by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

*Margaret Cornish*

**Notes of Circuit Meeting** held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September:

- Reverend Nick Wood was approved as Deputy Superintendent for 2025/2026.
- Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) raised £2,321 for their chosen charity and a further £7,000 for Leprosy Mission. MWiB will arrange an Easter Offering in 2026. Glenda Sidding offered to lead a "Local Arrangement" (LA) service to focus on MWiB and its activities.
- Joyce Wild has accepted the post of Safeguarding Officer for the whole of the Circuit.

We broke into "focus groups" to consider a) our "Mission Plans", b) "How do we disciple our members?", c) "How do we do 'outreach' into our community?" and d) "Do we currently partner with other Churches in Blandford?". All Churches were asked to consider these questions at their next Church Council and then provide feed-back to the Circuit. All replies will then be consolidated to for a Circuit wide "Mission Plan".

If you have any questions regarding the Circuit, then please talk with John Cornish or Joyce Wild.

**Woodlands Methodist:** "Worship for You", September 14<sup>th</sup>, 6.00 pm, led by Mr Colin Besant. Details on poster in hall.

**Woodlands Methodist:** Harvest Supper, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30 pm, £5 each. Details on poster in hall.

**Woodlands Methodist:** Harvest Service, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 6.00 pm. Further details on poster in hall.

**Wimborne Methodist:** Concert of Musical Memories at Wimborne Methodist on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 pm. Further details on poster in hall.

**Wimborne Methodist:** Charity concert by Bourne2Sing, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm in aid of future Pillars Zambia. Further details on poster in hall.

**Blandford Foodbank is urgently** in need of (updated 6.9.25) – Cereal, Tea bags 40, Coffee, Tinned fish, Tinned fruit, Tinned meat, Tinned soup, Tinned rice pudding. Other donations of food or household goods are also welcomed. For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point. *John Cornish*

**Prayer:** Please can we remember to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation we know are ill or suffering in some way.

If you know of anyone who would like prayer and be mentioned by name in The Link, please let me know (having obtained their permission first to mention them by name).

**Minister:** Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

Enquiries via Lead Steward, John Cornish, on 07799 516 735

**Pastoral Support:** Joyce Wild: Tel: 01258 454091